Import of Inferior Quality Steel

613. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the importers are buying steel of inferior quality (seconds) which adversely affect the quality of the finished products; and

(b) if so, what steps Govt. propose to take to curb such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to restrict their imports the Govt. has fixed minimum floor prices for seconds/defectives of certain items of finished steel.

Residential Schools for Tribal Students

614. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of residential schools for tribal students set up in each State during the last two years; and

(b) how much expenditure has been incurred on each School during that period alongwith the number of tribal students benefited?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House on receipt.

Utilisation of funds for Welfare of STs

615. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the tribal sub-plan, the percentage of expenditure has gone down since 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to improve the working conditions in order to utilise fully the funds earmarked for welfare of Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) No, Sir.